



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/787,929	05/16/2001	Hirosi Itou	205467US0PCT	3307
22850	7590	06/04/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			LONEY, DONALD J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1772	

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

07/787927

Applicant(s)

J. L. Loney et al.

Examiner

D. Loney

Group Art Unit

1772

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

## Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/5/03.
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1 7.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 15
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 1711

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

2. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stokes et al.

Stokes et al discloses a non-woven hook and loop-fastening device with non-embossed portions (8), which form convex island regions surrounded by non-embossed heat pressed portions (6) as shown in Fig. No. 2. Refer to column 3, lines 2-60, column 5, lines 48-50, column 6, lines 7-13 and 38-42, column 7, lines 1-6, column 8, lines 44-48, column 9, lines 50-57 and column 10, lines 35-67.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stokes et al.

Stokes et al teaches the invention substantially as recited except for the specific basis weight, bulk density, crimps/in present crimp, diameter of island region and distance there between. See 35 USC 102 rejection above. Stokes does teach the fibers

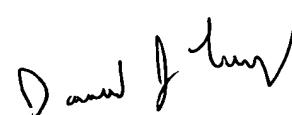
Art Unit: 1711

may be crimped as well known in the art (column 7, lines 106) and that the size, shape and spacing of the island region can vary to meet a particular application (column 10, lines 48-52 and column 11, lines 11-15).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to Stokes et al to form a hook and loop fastening device with the structure and/or properties as recited in the above claims in order to conform the device to a particular application and to provide the prerequisite amount of engagement areas and limit the amount of fiber pull out as described in column 14, line 11-15 of Stokes et al for the purpose of providing sufficient connection strength without destroying the fastening motivated by the fact that Stokes et al teaches the structure and/or properties can vary to meet a particular application.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to D. Loney at telephone number (571) 272-1493.

D. Loney/af  
May 7, 2004

  
DONALD J. LONEY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER